

CLERK: Mr. President, I now have an amendment to the bill offered by Senator DeCamp. (Read DeCamp amendment as found on page 603, Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, I want to be very brief. That is the original Beutler amendment as I recall and tried to deal primarily with the Christian Scientist and, yes, I know all the arguments, that you have to do this screening at an early date, and as I say, in most cases it probably will get done. But in certain instances, if somebody that strongly feels that they don't want the blood of that child taken for testing, I think it has worked okay these number of years in Nebraska. It is something that has been in our laws. If you are going to remove this particular religious protection or whatever, then I suggest that you are going to open up a can of worms on a whole bunch of others, and for that reason, I would urge you to adopt the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, I would like to ask Senator DeCamp one question.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yeah.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator DeCamp, this amendment is saying that if on religious grounds you don't want your newborn infant tested then they would not be tested, is that what the amendment says?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: That is precisely what it does, and by the way, Marge, that has been the law as I understand it...

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Senator DeCamp. You can speak on your time. Thank you for your answer. Senator DeCamp said just a few minutes ago that it has worked okay in the past. That is like what they say if it ain't broken, don't fix it. But remember when Chief Justice Krivosha came in here in 1981, my first year here, in his state of Judiciary message, he kind of put that old saw to bed when he said a stitch in time will save nine, and as I told you last week when we were debating another bill, a newborn infant has no way of looking out for themselves. There is a child over there under the balcony right now about 8 or 9 years old, and if her parents didn't believe that it was